Short Term, Medium Term and Long Term Plans for Development of Tourism

1214. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governemnt have asked different State Governments to prepare short term, medium term and long term plans to develop tourism in their respective States;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken by different State Governments to prepare the long term, medium term and short term plans for the development of tourism; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (c) The Department of Tourism had asked various State Governments to prepare a Master Plan on Tourism. The following States have prepared their Master Plans:—

(1) Andhra Pradesh
(2) Goa
(3) Himachal Pradesh
(4) Karnataka
(5) Kerala
(6) Madhya Pradesh
(7) Punjab
(8) Rajasthan
(9) Tamil Nadu
(10) Assam
(11) Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Settlement between management of Air India and its unions

1215. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a settlement was agreed between the management of Air India and some of its unions on 31.12.95;

(b) if so, whether it was agreeable to all employees;

(c) whether there was any protest against the agreement from a major section of the employees, especially from Air India employees guild;

(d) any amendment was affected in the agreement; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) The management of Air India signed an agreement on 31.12.1995 with Air India Employees Guild. Only a small section of employees objected to certain provisions of the agreement.

(d) and (e) The agreement was partially amended on 5.5.96 to adopt the methodology subsequently followed by Indian Airlines in fixing basic pay in the revised scales of pay.

Uplinking Facilities to Private T.V. Networks

1216. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give uplinking facilities to private TV networks, either domestic or foreign;

(b) whether the representatives of West Bengal, Kerala, Tripura, Maharashtra and Karnataka expressed their strong reservation on the issue at a conference of the State Information Ministers in New Delhi;

(c) if so, the salient points raised by them; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM): (a) No decision has been taken by the Governemnt on this issue as yet.

(b) Whereas Karnataka, West Bengal and Tripura Governments did express strong reservation on the programmes of foreign satellite channels, Kerala and Maharashtra Governments did not make any specific comments on this issue.

(c) The Government of Karnataka expressed that western values are being thrust at the cost of Indian heritage through foreign satellite channels and hence a National Media Policy should be evolved. The Government of West Bengal mentioned that foreign broadcasters represent corporate culture of western world and are ignorant of and indifferent to the realities of the third world countries. Allowing uplinking facilities to foreign satellite channels from Indian soil may encourage them to participate in other media sectors as well. Government of Tripura conveyed its concern over the bad impact of private cable TV programmes on the younger generation.

(d) Government have noted the above views.

Survey for tourist facilities in West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh

1217. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted of the need for tourist facilities in West Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh along the National Highway;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have not had a proactive policy to help establishment tourist amenities near small towns; and

(c) the reasons for neglect of this sector?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh in the Tourism Policy has identified Kolleru lake in West Godavari District as thrust area for the development of Tourism.

(b) and (c) The creation of tourist amenities is the responsibility of the State/Union Territory Govts, however, the Department of Tourism provides central financial assistance to State Govts. for projects based on their merits inter-se-priority and availability of funds.

Exploitation of International routes by Indian carriers

1218. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to constraints of aircraft capacity and operating crew certain international routes are not being utilised to their full entitlements by Indian Airlines and Air India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what remedial measures Government propose to initiate in this regard so that international routes are exploited to the maximum by Indian carriers?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Air India/Indian Airlines have by and large inducted adequate capacity on internaitonal routes commensurate with the traffic potential.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

NICD proposal for national campaign against rabies

1219. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NICD has proposed a national campaign against rabies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the reaction of Government to the national campaign against rabies;

(d) whether such proposal has been accepted;

(e) if so, whether Andhra Pradesh will be considered to intimate such anti-rabies campaign; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?